

**REMARKS**

Claims 5, 6, 11 and 12 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 5 and 11 are amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 8 and intervening claim 7. Claims 5 and 11 are further amended for clarity, as suggested by the Examiner in the December 16 personal interview. Claims 7, 8 and 9 are canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited therein and claim 12 is added. The subject matter of claim 12 corresponds to claims 5 and 7 and the allowable subject matter of claim 9. Support for the amendments to claims 5 and 11 can be found in Fig. 1 and on page 17, lines 17-21 of the specification. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 because the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration as the amendments merely incorporate allowable subject matter into the independent claims; and (c) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiner Nguyen at the interview held December 16, 2008, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicant's record of the interview.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claims 8 and 9 recite allowable subject matter and would be allowable if amended to incorporate the subject matter of the base claim and any intervening claim. As discussed above, independent claims 5 and 11 now incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 8 and intervening claim 7. Therefore, claims 5 and 11 are allowable.

The Office Action rejects claims 5 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. As discussed during the interview, the rejection is obviated by the above amendments to independent claims 5 and 11. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 5, 6 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Arakawa, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0065793 A1, in view of Rosner, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0221138 A1. The rejection is rendered moot by the above amendments to claims 5 and 11. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

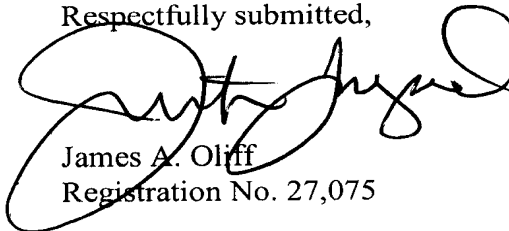
The Office Action rejects claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Arakawa and Rosner, and further in view of Graunke, U.S. Patent No. 5,852,826. The rejection of canceled claim 7 is moot.

Applicant submits that added claim 12 also is patentable over the applied references because claim 12 incorporates the features of claims 5, 7 and 9.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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